MTC hears carjacking case

Accused say they have been implicated

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: One of the accused in the case of seizing a car at gunpoint, testifying in the military court No. 7 on Thursday, said the police kept on beating them saying they were bandits.

The accused, from a village in Shahdad Kot, in district Larkana, said he had come to Karachi by a bus.

Arif and the other accused, Abdullah, son of Mohammad, resident of village Kachi Phal, Balochistan, disowned the third accused and said they had nothing to with him.

The car, Honda Civic (U-2613), had been seized from Faisal Baig, son of Iqbal Baig, on Nov 3 in Block-2 of Gulshan-i-Iqbal.

The accused are also charged with being in possession of illegal weapons and firing at a mobile police party. Arif denied the allegation of robbery or banditry.

Answering a question, he said he had been arrested on Nov 1 when he was visiting his uncle, Ali Gohar, who lived with his brother.

He said the police tortured him by saying that he was involved in some criminal case.

Accused No. 2 Abdullah, son of Mohammad, resident of village Kachi Phal, Balochistan, said he had been arrested on Nov 1. He added he and Arif had gone to their uncle, Ali Gohar, who was sick.

He said as they reached near Riaz Autos, they met Sona Khan, a relative of theirs, and when they were conversing about the illness of Ali Gohar, the police arrested both of them and locked them at Gulshan-i-Iqbal police station.

The witness said the two were booked under Section 13 (d) of the Arms Ordinance, about which they were told by a lawyer, when produced before a court on Nov 4 for remand. He said the charges were, however, never disclosed to them by the police.

When both the accused were in jail, they were informed about the death of Ali Gohar. Abdullah denied snatching a car and disowned any connections with Manzoor, the third accused, whom they met after three days of their arrest.

The third accused, Manzoor Hussain, son of Abdul Karim, resident of mohallah Gul Sher, taluka Kandhkot, district Jacobabad, in his testimony also denied having ever seen the other two accused, leave alone their involvement in a crime jointly.

Manzoor said he also had been arrested on Nov 1. He said he left his home town on Nov 1 and arrived early morning of Nov 2 and had nothing in his possession except Rs1,235 which were seized by the Gulshan-i-Iqbal police and he wanted the money back, excluding about Rs4,000 for his freedom.

When he said neither he could give them the money he had with him nor any more, he was booked in a serious case.

He told the military court that Rs1,235 which the police robbed him of had not been returned to him so far.

The accused said he had been arrested at the NIPA roundabout after reaching Karachi.

He said before coming to Karachi for a job, promised to him by an acquaintance, who had given his name as Azizullah, whose address, written on a piece of paper, had also been seized by the police.

He said he told the remanding magistrate about his maltreatment at the hands of the police and the court took no notice.

The accused denied all charges of snatching a car at gunpoint and his involvement in any police encounter.

Another witness was Sona, son of Khan Mohammad of Larkana, now residing in Gulshan-i-Iqbal.

The old man said his two nephews came to see him early in the morning and it was when they were arrested in his presence and taken away in a police van.

The court concluded all the evidence and the counsel have been directed to submit their written arguments.